UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
COMMONWEALTH HONORS COLLEGE (CHC) COUNCIL

The charge of the Commonwealth Honors College Council is to provide advice to the Dean on all matters relating to the administration of the Honors College, its curriculum and policy, including;

- honors course approvals;
- standards governing the establishment, modification and termination of all Departmental Honors and Multidisciplinary Honors programs;
- standards governing CHC student admission and graduation; and
- standards governing and the direction of Honors theses/projects and independent studies.

Minutes

Date **May 13, 2024 12:20–2:00 PM**

Location **via Zoom** https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92399061648?pwd=NUpjbjcvQ3R0S3IRS0s0UlVFdEd0QT09
Meeting ID: 923 9906 1648 **Passcode:** 029937

Attendance Anthony Paik, Benjamin Marlin, Cody Olson, Deepika Marya, Dominick Usher, Elena Carbone, Jean MacKimmie, Kim Tremblay, LizAnette Perez-LeBoeuf, Luis Marentes, Lynda Schwartz, Mari Castañeda, Melanie Radik, Michael Krezmien, Nancy Chomitz, Neal Anderson, Stacy Giufre, Susan Ware, Valentina Ravaioli, Xavier Aparicio, Casey Krone (Minutes)

Introductions

Approve Minutes

- Minutes from last meeting are unanimously approved with 2 abstentions.

Announcements

Updates from the Dean (*Mari Castañeda)*

1. Thanks to Ben Marlin for his leadership of the Council this year.
2. MassURC was Friday April 19. Over 1300 people attended, 700+ students presented. Of the 400 UMass students presenting, 300 were CHC students. Main feedback was that people wanted more time for the poster sessions but we are limited to a certain amount of time. MassURC will be in person next year, Friday April 18, 2025.
3. The Commonwealth Honors Program Council is the accreditation body that oversees honors programs across the state is hosting an honors pedagogy education conference in September. Sent out call for proposals to all faculty here at UMass engaged with honors and we have a few inquiries already. The deadline is May 31st.
4. We are planning to have a presentation from CHC as well as other conversations at state level regarding honors education to be held be at UMass Dartmouth in early October.
5. The Celebration of Excellence is happening this Thursday at 6:30pm. We are anticipating over 3,500 people. All Council members were invited to participate.
6. Last Wednesday we sent out a message of care to all our students with regards to the arrests that happened on Tuesday evening. Received a lot of feedback from students before and after appreciating and acknowledging the opportunity to come together and acknowledging the difficult time.

Old Business

1. CHC curriculum change proposal update (*Mari Castañeda)*
    a. The curriculum change proposal was presented at the Faculty Senate meeting on Thursday, May 2. Several faculty had questions and concerns about the proposal and discussion ensued. A motion to postpone a vote on the proposal in the faculty senate

did not receive sufficient support and the vote on the proposal passed. The new CHC curriculum will take effect this fall.

b. We will launch a subcommittee within the CHC Council that will look at the Honors Thesis experience next year, which aligns with our CHP reaccreditation that is happening in 2025-26. Some questions are connected to AQUAD as well.

c. The Undergrad Dean's Council has been notified of the curriculum change. CHC is working with NSOT colleagues so they are aware of the change. D. Usher and CHC Student Data Officer Chris Cuff will meet with the Registrar's office regarding having the new plan display correctly in the ARR.

d. In the following discussion, some CHCC members expressed concern with the timeline and processes that resulted in the proposal as approved by the Faculty Senate.

e. A. Paik noted that there was a long discussion about resources related to the proposal in the Budget Council, an issue that was raised in CHC council. Going forward the Budget director said they will be looking at metrics to determine if there is a need to adjust CHC budget due to the reduction in the number of required honors courses.

f. A. Paik also noted that the faculty senate vote to postpone a decision on the curriculum proposal was mostly opposed by members of the administration, but was more evenly split among faculty. Going forward, would encourage looking at how to get more buy-in from faculty.

New Business

1. CHC Advising presentation (*LizAnette Perez-LeBoeuf/Nancy Chomitz/Cody Olson*)
    a. Presentation on academic advising in the honors context, and the "Bloom Honors Advising Model".
    b. There were 3,775 advising meetings this year. An advising survey is sent to students after every advisor meeting. The proportion of positive connects is extremely high.
    c. The Dean and council members expressed their appreciation for the work of the CHC Advising staff.
2. Academic Year 2024/2025 CHCC Chair discussion, nomination/s and voting (*Ben Marlin*)
    a. B. Marlin indicated willingness to serve another term. A. Paik nominated B. Marlin and L. Marentes seconded the nomination. Marlin is elected to be chair for 2024-25, with one abstention (himself).
3. Brainstorming meeting agenda topic ideas for the 2024/2025 academic year (*Ben Marlin*)
    a. M. Castañeda – discussion with Library/SCUA about uploading honors thesis manuscripts to ScholarWorks.
    b. A. Paik – question about AQUAD process which is typically for programs. M. Castañeda – an AQUAD review is unusual for a college and we will borrow some parts of it for our CHP review process in 2025-26.
    c. D. Usher – student advisory board next year.
4. CHCC meeting schedule for the 2024/2025 academic year (*Mari Castañeda*)

    Mondays, 2pm-3pm

    - Should be 12:20-2:00pm
    - September 16th
    - October 21st (please note: Mon Oct 14 is Indigenous People's Day)
    - November 18th (please note: Mon Nov 11 is Veteran's Day)
    - December 9th
    - February 10th

- March 10th
- April 7th
- May 12th

Committee Reports

Reports from CHC Council Representatives on other Councils

1. Academic Standards Committee Review *(Elena Carbone)*
    a. Reviews proposal numbers for last 3 years.
    b. Expects at least 7 ASC members next year, asks for additional volunteers from among CHCC members.
2. Academic Matters Council *(Dominick Usher)*
    a. Proposal to update required syllabus statements was approved. That information is now live on the Faculty Senate website.
    b. This summer, starting the end of this semester and picking up in late August, our office with the help of Camila Hwang-Carlos will be reaching out to connect with folks who need course reapprovals and will include links to the new syllabus requirements.
3. Research Council *(Thomas Brashear-Alejandro)* Tabled

Next Meeting

September 16, 2024, 12:20-2:00 pm, Zoom

https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/92399061648?pwd=NUpjbjcvQ3R0S3lRS0s0UlVFdEd0QT09

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Attachments

- Minutes from 4/8/2024 meeting